

## AmeriCorps

As part of the Detroit Youth Energy Squad, 18 AmeriCorps members lead energy-saving home visits and workshops in Detroit. The Squad also partners with more than 30 Detroit Public Schools to assist students, teachers, and staff with energy-saving tips and promote STEM education related to environmental sustainability. More than 1,500 low-income households received weatherization and energy education last year and enjoyed a total of \$588,250 in energy savings. The Squad has also established a district-wide partnership and an innovative cost-sharing plan with Detroit Public Schools. By documenting \$395,000 in total energy savings, which was \$245,000 above projected savings, Detroit Public School officials agreed to increase its matching share from \$70,000 to \$150,000 during the 2013 to 2014 year. The greater savings means greater environmental benefits, more student engagement, and a more sustainable financial future for the program.

## AmeriCorps NCCC

Hiawatha Shore-to-Shore leverages volunteers and partners who develop, maintain, protect, and promote the North Country National Scenic Trails as the premier hiking paths across the northern tier of the United States. Its assigned AmeriCorps NCCC team, Cedar Six, constructed 4,915 feet of boardwalks in 40 locations, built 2.1 miles of new trail throughout the Eastern Upper Peninsula, removed 80 stumps, and blazed 38 trees to direct hikers. Members learned about trail rerouting, tread maintenance and creation, benching, blazing to mark trails, and boardwalk construction. The team helped build trails that people of all ages can enjoy—from making new areas accessible to hikers of all ages to creating smoother tread and routes around large hills to appeal to older hikers. By building 40 boardwalks in areas that get very muddy, the trail is usable year round, even during the rainy season.

## AmeriCorps VISTA

AmeriCorps VISTA members at the Piast Institute focus on alcohol and drug-abuse prevention programming with the goal of improving the health and wellbeing of economically disadvantaged school children. The four members also develop resources to help sustain these important programs. Throughout 2012, they experienced extraordinary success in the area of resource development, which in turn was instrumental in supporting various events, supplies and ultimately programming. Grants in the amount of \$59,500 and \$14,000 of in-kind contributions were secured to sustain and enhance the drug and alcohol-abuse prevention programs and initiatives in Hamtramck.

## Senior Corps

The Foster Grandparent Program, sponsored by Catholic Charities West Michigan Lakeshore, focuses on improving reading scores for third graders whose Michigan Education Assessment Program scores are below grade level. Eighty-three Foster Grandparents provided literacy support services in twenty-three elementary schools across Muskegon, Newaygo and Lake counties. Data for the completed 2012 school year demonstrated significant improvement in the literacy levels of 159 third graders who were identified by teachers as needing intervention due to low reading scores. Teachers reported an increase in overall reading participation for 96.6 percent of the children assigned to a Foster Grandparent. This number exceeds the 95 percent target. Additionally, 95.8 percent of the school-aged children served by a Foster Grandparent improved their reading abilities as assessed by the school district standardized test and reported by their teacher.

## Social Innovation Fund

With their Social Innovation Fund grant of \$2 million per year and their dollar-for-dollar matching funds, United Way for Southeastern Michigan supports 11 nonprofit subgrantee programs in greater Detroit and the surrounding areas to implement replicable early childhood learning programs. Working on the principle that the majority of development occurs before a child enters school, since 2005 the United Way for Southeastern Michigan (UWSEM) has set a goal that 80 percent of children in Detroit should enter kindergarten with the social, emotional and cognitive foundation for success. UWSEM's Greater Detroit Early Childhood Innovation Fund will address greater Detroit's long-term systemic social and economic problems by investing in children at an early age.

## Volunteer Generation Fund

## National Service Impact in Michigan

Using their Volunteer Generation Fund grant, the Michigan Community Service Commission made sub-grants to seven volunteer connector organizations across the state to increase the number of volunteers addressing health and public safety issues in local communities. One sub-grant went to the Allegan County United Way to support the creation of a Volunteer Medical Corps to provide free quality healthcare to uninsured and underinsured county residents. The Volunteer Medical Corps holds day-long Free Health Care Clinics providing medical, dental, and mental health services to eligible children and adults. Volunteer physicians, nurse practitioners, registered nurses, medical assistants, dentists, dental hygienists, mental health providers, as well as non-medical staff provide pro bono services at the clinics. In the first year, the Allegan County United Way recruited a total of 243 new volunteers, 59 of which were highly-skilled. Seventy patients were seen in their first two day clinics including children with strep throat, an undiagnosed diabetic mother, and a father with pneumonia. In addition, a collaborative of 16 partners has been formed that now accesses medical supplies and pharmaceuticals. As a result of this increased volunteer activity and effectiveness, the Allegan County Volunteer Medical Corps are creating systemic change to address health care challenges in this rural county.